

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I, Claims 1-14, drawn to a process for the manufacture of a veil.

Group II, Claims 15-22, drawn to a veil comprising glass filaments.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-14, drawn to a process for the manufacture of a veil.

The Examiner has indicated that Groups I and II do not relate to a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2 they lack the same or corresponding special technical features in that Group I requires forming a cloth conveyor belt, a stoving device and a PVOH binder.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups or shown that a burden exists in searching all of the claims. Applicants point out that under the Unity of Invention Rules and PCT Rule 13.2 the Examiner must cite a reference to show that the "special technical features" do not exist between the two inventions. Such a reference is cited to show that the "special technical features" are known in the prior art and therefore unity of invention does not exist. Since no reference has been provided the restriction between Groups I and II is improper and should be withdrawn. Applicants further point out that a process for the manufacturing of a product and the product resulting from said manufacture **have unity** under the Unity of Invention Rules and where each of these categories of invention are found in one application unity of invention does exist. See MPEP Annex B under Unity of Invention (e)(i).

Moreover the MPEP in § 803 states as follows:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it

on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office. In this regard it is pointed out that the International Search Authority searched **all** of the claims in the present application.

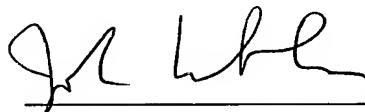
Applicants further respectfully request that should the process claims of elected invention Group I be found allowable, that the Examiner withdraw the restriction between the process and product and rejoin them under the rejoinder procedures of MPEP § 821.04(a).

Accordingly and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain a restriction requirement. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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